XIX. *An Account of a Stag's Head and Horns, found at* Alport, *in the Pariſh of* Youlgreave, *in the County of* Derby. *In a Letter from the Rev.* Robert Barker, *B.D. to* John Jebb, *M.D. F.R.S.*

Read April 14, 1785.

ABOUT five years ago, ſome men working in a quarry of that kind of ſtone which in this part of the country we call tuft *, at about five or ſix feet below the ſurface, in a very ſolid part of the rock, met with ſeveral fragments of the horns and bones of one or different animals. Amongſt the reſt, out of a large piece of the rock, which they got entire, there appeared the tips of three or four horns, projecting a few inches from it, and the ſcapula of ſome animal adhering to the outſide of it. A friend of mine, to whom the quarry belongs, ſent the piece of the rock to me in the ſtate they got it, in which I let it remain for ſome time. But ſuſpecting that they might be tips of the horns of ſome head encloſed in the lump, I determined to gratify my curioſity by clearing away the ſtone from the horns. On doing which I found that the lump contained a very large ſtag's head, with two antlers upon each horn, in very perfect preſervation, incloſed in it.

* Tuft is a ſtone formed by the depoſit left by water paſſing through beds of ſticks, roots, vegetables, &c. of which there is a large ſtratum at Matlock Bath, in this county.

Though the horns are ſo much larger than thoſe of any ſtag I have ever ſeen, yet, from the ſutures in the ſkull appearing very diſtinct in it, one would ſuppoſe that it was not the head of a very old animal. I have one of the horns nearly entire, and the greateſt part of the other, but ſo broken in the getting out of the rock, that one part will not join to the other, as the parts of the other horn do. The horns are of that ſpecies which park-keepers in this part of the country call throſtle-neſt horns, from the peculiar formation of the upper part of them, which is branched out into a number of ſhort antlers which form an hollow about large enough to contain a thruſh's neſt. I ſend you the dimenſions of the different parts of them, compared with the horns of the ſame ſpecies of a large ſtag, which have probably hung in the place from whence I procured them two or three or perhaps more centuries; and with another pair of horns of a different kind, which are terminated by one ſingle pointed antler, and which were the horns of a ſeven-year-old ſtag.

The river Larkell runs down the valley, and part of it falls into the quarry where theſe horns were found, the water of which has not the property of incruſting any bodies it paſſes through. It is therefore probable, that the animal to which theſe horns belonged was waſhed into the place where they were found, at the time of ſome of thoſe convulſions which contributed to raiſe this part of the iſland out of the ſea. Beſides this complete head, I have ſeveral pieces of horns, bones (particularly the ſcapula I mentioned above), and ſeveral vertebræ of the back, found in the ſame quarry; ſome, if not all, of them probably belonging to the animal whoſe head is in my poſſeſſion.

Dimen-

Dimenſions of the horns found at Alport.

	Ft.	In.
Circumference at their inſertion into the corona,	0	$9\frac{7}{8}$
Length of the loweſt antler,	1	2
Length of ſecond ditto,	0	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Length of third ditto,	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Length of the horn,	3	$3\frac{1}{2}$

Dimenſions of a large pair of throſtle-neſt horns.

Circumference at their inſertion into the corona,	0	7
Length of the loweſt antler,	1	0
Length of ſecond ditto,	0	$10\frac{5}{8}$
Length of third ditto,	0	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Length of the horn,	2	$7\frac{1}{2}$

Dimenſions of the horns of a ſtag ſeven years old.

Circumference at their inſertion into the corona,	0	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Length of the loweſt antler,	0	9
Length of ſecond ditto,	0	10
Length of third ditto,	0	10
Length of the horn,	2	$8\frac{3}{4}$

Youlgreave, Jan. 23, 1785.